Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O P 141010Z NOV 73 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1068 USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1266 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 7667

EXDIS

TOKYO PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR HABIB

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, UN

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 28TH UNGA: PRESS SPECULATION

REF A USUN 4752 B SEOUL 7452

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO LEAKS BY ROKG HERE. KNOWLEDGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE HAS BEEN HELD TO EXTREMELY SMALL NUMBER OF RANKING BLUE HOUSE AND MOFA OFFICIALS.

2. IN PAST WEEK ROK PRESS HAS ENGAGED IN CONTINUING SPECULATION THAT SOME MOVE MIGHT BE MADE ON KOREAN QUESTION BY REVISING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. THIS POSSIBILITY ALLUDED TO PUBLICLY BY FONMIN KIM ON NOVEMBER 5 (REF B) FOLLOWING US-ROK EARLIER DECISION TO DROP MEMBERSHIP PARA. RECENT ROK NEWS AGENCY STORIES FILED FROM NEW YORK HAVE ALSO MENTIONED QUOTE RUMOR UNQUOTE THAT ALGERIAN RESOLUTION COSPONSORS WERE SEEKING TO MODIFY THEIR RESOLUTION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MORE VOTES. HOWEVER, THESE PRESS REPORTS DID NOT MENTION OR ALLUDE TO US-PRC NEGOTIATIONS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW YORK.

3. IT IS ALSO TRUE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PRC HAS TRIGGERED INTENSE PRESS SPECULATION OVER

POSSIBILITY OF US-PRC DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING
ON PROBLEM OF KOREAN PENINSULA. SPECULATIVE
STORIES DISCUSSED US FORCES IN KOREA, ARMISTICE
AGREEMENT, POSSIBILITY OF PEACE TREATY AND UN
QUESTION. IN STORY FILED NOVEMBER 14,
ROK JOURNALIST IN NEW YORK REPORTED THAT SOURCES
IN NEW YORK ASSERTED THAT SECRETARY AND CHINESE
LEADERS IN PEKING QUOTE MIGHT HAVE REACHED SOME KIND OF
UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO THE KOREAN QUESTION
UNQUOTE.

4. PRESS ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 14 HEADLINED REPORT THAT OUR SIDE IS SEEKING NEW STRATEGY AT UN. HOWEVER, STORY WAS AN AP DISPATCH DATELINED NEW YORK AND CONTAINED COMMENT THAT QUOTE SOME BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA HAVE AGREED ON A COURSE OF ACTION THAT MAY AFFECT THE SCHEDULED DELIBERATIONS ON KOREA IN THE ASSEMBLY'S MAIN POLITICAL COMMITTEE. UNQUOTE. MAIN TRUST OF STORY WAS ON POSSIBILITY OF REVISING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. UNDERHILL

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